

=Abstract=

**Effectiveness of Early Detection among the High Risk Group  
of Hepatocellular Carcinoma by Ultrasound Screening Test**

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**Background/Aims:** The prognosis of primary hepatocellular carcinoma is extremely poor because of its large size, portal vein thrombosis, extrahepatic metastasis and underlying liver cirrhosis. The aim of this study is to evaluate the usefulness of ultrasound screening test for early detection of hepatocellular carcinoma in high-risk populations. **Methods:** We analysed 119 patients who were diagnosed with hepatocellular carcinoma by ultrasonography screening test in Yonsei University Severance Hospital from the period of January 1990 to December 1996. **Results:** The mean follow-up duration to the diagnosis of hepatocellular carcinoma was 30 months (range 3-75). The number of patients with single lesion was 89 (75%). The mean diameter of the tumor was 3.0 cm (range 1-10), 82 patients (70%) had masses measured less than 3 cm in diameter. The number of patients with elevated serum alphafetoprotein level above 400 ng/ml was 29 (25%). The median survival was 28 months in screening group, significant compared with 7 months in control group ( $p<0.001$ ). **Conclusions:** Ultrasound follow-up in high-risk group of hepatocellular carcinoma made it possible to detect small tumors in a high percentage of cases. This may lead to an increase in the number of potentially curable tumors and hence an increase in the overall survival rate. So ultrasound screening test is important in the high-risk group of hepatocellular carcinoma. (Korean J Hepatol 1998;4:330—345)

**Key Words** : Hepatocellular carcinoma, Early diagnosis, Screening test, Ultrasound, Alphafetoprotein

134  
1997 49  
 $\alpha$ FP) 가  
가  
, 가  
, , .11, 13, 14, 20-23  
 $\alpha$ FP  
가 가 가 가 60% 400 ng/ml  
.1-6 B  
C , , 가 가  
3 cm  
가  
.7-13 가 .12, 24-27  
2 cm  
가 가 85- 90%  
6 .13, 22, 25, 27  
가 가  
. 가  
1 3 .13, 28  
cm 가  
 $\alpha$ FP  
가 .  
가 가  
가 .14-19  
가  
,  
(alphafetoprotein,

1. 1990 1 1 1996 12 31  $\alpha$ FP

$\alpha$ FP

2.

1)

B C B C

가

1 3- 12  $\alpha$ FP

3

3

가

가

12 3 cm 3 cm  $\alpha$ FP

가

$\alpha$ FP 가 400 ng/ml (massive type), (nodular type), (diffuse infiltrative type)

4)

(X<sup>2</sup>), Student's T test, One-way ANOVA, Kaplan-Meier, Cox's proportional hazard regression model, p = 0.05

Child-Pugh A, B, C, (transarterial therapy), (percutaneous ethanol injection), (hyperthermia), Holmium-166

SPSS release 7.0

3)

1997 8 31, 119 79 (66%), 40 (34%) 2:1, 57 (34-76) 74 (62%), 42 (35%), 40 gm 5

**Table 1.** Child-Pugh Classification and Alpha-fetoprotein Level at Initial Screening and at HCC Detection

Liver Status/ AFP Level	No. of Patients (%)	
	at Initial Screening	at HCC Detection
Child-Pugh Class		
Chronic Hepatitis	27 (23)	4 (4)
Child A	50 (42)	55 (46)
Child B	25 (21)	29 (24)
Child C*	17 (14)	31 (26)
AFP		
≤20 ng/ml	67 (66)	49 (42)
20-400 ng/ml	30 (30)	38 (33)
>400 ng/ml**	4 (4)	29 (25)

\*: p<0.001 vs. Chronic Hepatitis Group

\*\* : p<0.01 vs. ≤20 ng/ml Group

Table 2. Demographic Data of the Patients

Parameter	Screening N (%)	Control N (%)	p value
Sex (M:F)	2:1	5.4:1	0.000*
Mean Age (years)	57 (34- 76)	54 (10- 86)	0.002*
Past History			
Chronic Hepatitis	74 (62)	267 (46)	0.000*
Liver Cirrhosis	42 (35)	69 (12)	0.000*
Alcohol	39 (338)	239 (41)	0.209
HBsAg (+)	88 (74)	438 (76)	0.897
Anti- HCV (+)	25 (21)	99 (17)	0.006*
Liver Cirrhosis	115 (97)	412 (71)	0.000*
$\alpha$ FP > 400 ng/ml	29 (25)	380 (66)	0.000*
Tumor Size $\leq$ 3 cm	82 (70)	63 (11)	0.000*
Portal Vein Thrombosis	11 (9)	174 (43)	0.000*
Distant Metastasis	2 (2)	105 (25)	0.000*

39 (33%) 6.3 cm  
HBsAg 88 (74%), Anti- HCV 2 cm  
25 (21%) 가 11 (2%), 2- 3 cm 52 (9%)  
3 (3%) 가 5 cm 449  
9 (8%) 5 (78%) (p<0.001).  $\alpha$   
80 gm 10 FP 400 ng/ml 380  
(66%)  
(p<0.001).  
92 (77%) (Table 2).  
가 115 (97%)  
30 (3- 75)  
(p<0.001)(Table 1). 4.6 (2- 13)  
 $\alpha$ FP 20  
ng/ml 67 (66%), 400 ng/ml 6.8 (3- 12)  
4 (4%) 6 6- 12  
20 ng/ml 49 (42%), 400 6 64 (54%), 6- 12  
ng/ml 29 (25%) 20 ng/ml 55 (46%)  
400 ng/ml 가 89  
(p<0.01)(Table 1). 75%  
3.0 cm(1- 10)  
가 578 70% 3 cm  
(Table 3). 5 cm 10

**Table 3.** Number of the Tumor and Tumor Size in the Screened Patients

No. of Tumor/Size	No. of Patients (%)
<b>No. of Tumor</b>	
Single	89 (75)
Two	11 (9)
Over Two	19 (16)
<b>Tumor Size</b>	
≤2 cm	46 (39)
2-3 cm	36 (31)
3-5 cm	26 (22)
>5 cm	10 (8)

		, 7		, 5		Child
		B, C		.		
		3.1 cm		2		
		2.6 cm				
		(p=0.116).				
		6				
		2.7 cm, 6- 12		3.3 cm		
		6				
		(p<0.05)(Table 5).				
		3.0cm, Child A		2.9		
		cm, B		3.0 cm, C		3.3 cm
5		가		(p=0.76).		
11- 12		4		3 cm		B, C
1		Child- Pugh		C		23 (64%)
(Table 4).		3- 5 cm		B, C		가 36 (44%)
26		10		B, C		Child A
6- 12		, 1		3 cm		가 (p<0.05).

**Table 4.** Clinical Characteristics of the Screened Patients Whose Tumor Size Was More than 5 cm

No. of Patients	Sex	Age	αFP (ng/ml)	Final US Interval (mo)	Child Class	Tumor Size
1	M	57	< 2	12	B	diffuse infiltrative
2	M	46	55	12	C	diffuse infiltrative
3	F	66		12	B	6 cm
4	F	68	15	11	B	6 cm
5	F	52	7555	11	B	7 cm
6	M	48	24	9	B	diffuse infiltrative
7	M	47	21291	8	A	diffuse infiltrative
8	M	56	2018	7	C	diffuse infiltrative
9	F	54	24927	7	A	diffuse infiltrative
10	F	70	3	6	C	5.5cm

**Table 5.** Tumor Size According to the Final US Interval

Final US Interval	No. of Patients (%)				
	≤2 cm	2- 3 cm	3- 5 cm	>5 cm	Total
≤6 mo	28 (44)	19 (30)	16 (25)	1 (1)	64 (54)
6- 12 mo	19 (35)	17 (31)	10 (18)	9 (16)	55 (46)

T - test: p&lt;0.05

**Table 6.** Tumor Size According to the  $\alpha$ FP Level

$\alpha$ FP	No. of Patients (%)				Total
	$\leq 2$ cm	2-3 cm	3-5 cm	$> 5$ cm	
$\leq 20$ ng/ml	19 (39)	16 (33)	11 (22)	3 (6)	49 (42)
20- 400 ng/ml	22 (58)	10 (26)	4 (11)	2 (5)	38 (33)
$> 400$ ng/ml	5 (17)	9 (31)	11 (38)	4 (14)	29 (25)

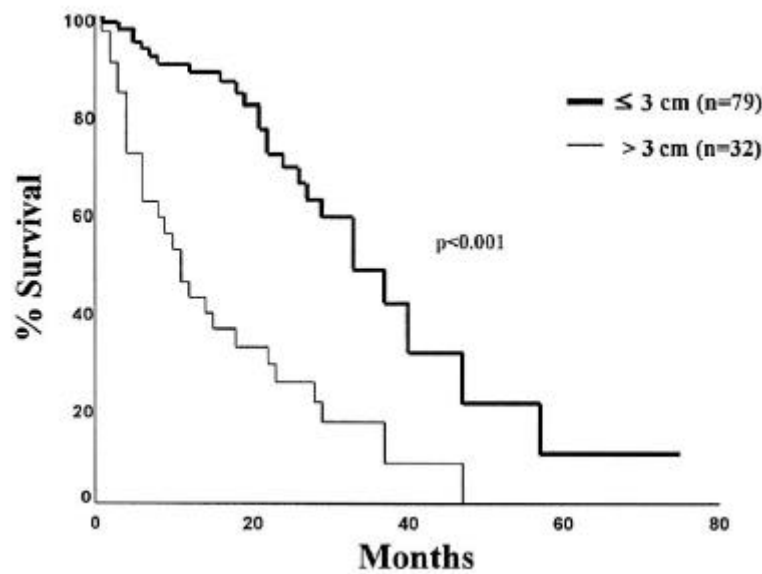
T - test:  $p < 0.001$ 

$\alpha$ FP  
 가 (p=0.96). (p<0.05)(Table 7).  
 $\alpha$ FP 9 (8%),  
 400 ng/ml 2.6 67 (56%), 8 (7%),  
 cm, 400 ng/ml 4.0 cm  $\alpha$ FP 35 (29%) .  
 Child- Pugh  
 (P<0.001). 3 cm  
 $\alpha$ FP 400 ng/ml 가 14 Child A , B  
 (17%) 3 cm (p<0.01).  
 400 ng/ml 가 15 (42%)  
 (p<0.005).  $\alpha$ FP 가 2.  
 가 29 (25%) 가 111 (93%)  
 (Table 6).  
 77 (67%), 15  
 29 (25%) 28 , 26  
 1 (1%), 8 (7%)가 . 1, 2, 3, 4  
 . 3 cm 77%, 55%, 39%, 12% .  
 5 cm 10 6  
 2  
 (p<0.001). cm 40 , 2-3 cm 24 , 3-5 cm  
 (hypoechoic) 42 12 , 5 cm 4 1, 2, 3  
 41% halo 가 2 cm 93%, 85%,

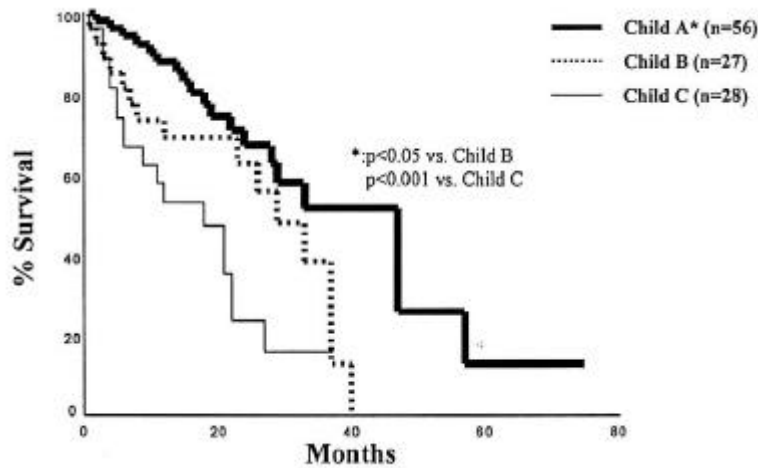
**Table 7.** Tumor Size According to the Ultrasonographic Pattern

US Pattern	No. of Patients (%)	Tumor Size (cm)1
Hyperechoic	34 (33)	$2.6 \pm 1.3$
Hyperechoic with halo	27 (26)	$3.2 \pm 1.4$
Hypoechoic*	42 (41)	$2.3 \pm 1.0$
Total	103 (100)	$3.0 \pm 1.7$

\*:  $p < 0.05$  vs. Hyperechoic with halo1: Mean  $\pm$  SD



**Figure 1.** Survival rate according to the tumor size.



**Figure 2.** Survival rate according to the Child-Pugh classification.

53%, 2-3 cm 84%, 46%, 39%, 3-5 cm 57%, 50%, 400 ng/ml  
 48%, 27%, 16%, 5 cm 48%, 43%, 18% αFP 74 (p<0.001)  
 21%, 0% 3 cm 69%, 27% (p<0.001)(Figure 1). (Figure 4).

Child A 29, 27  
 ( ) 47, B 29, C 3  
 18 1, 2, 3 A (p<0.001).  
 88%, 67%, 52%, B 69%, 6 27,

63%, 38%, C 53%, 24%,  
 16% Child A B C  
 (p<0.05)(Figure 2).

58, 29, 47, 21 (p<0.05)(Figure 3).

Child B 29, 3, 2 (p<0.05), Child A C (p=0.72, p=0.56). αFP

400 ng/ml 37, 400 ng/ml 12 1, 2, 3 400 ng/ml 83%,



6 29  
(p=  
0.68)  
1 29 ,  
2 27 3  
21  
(p=0.55).  
Child ,  
, TNM  
가

(p<0.05)

(Table 8).

가 398  
(69%)  
7 1,  
2, 3, 4  
36%, 22%, 14%, 10%  
28  
(p<0.001)  
(Figure 5).

28 , 7  
33 , 7

(p<0.001).

49

36 (74%)  
12 (25%)

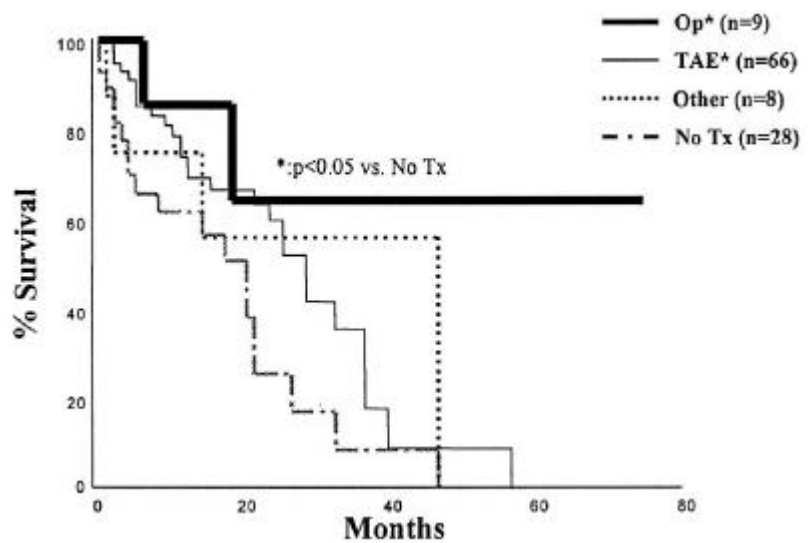
1 (2%)가

Child

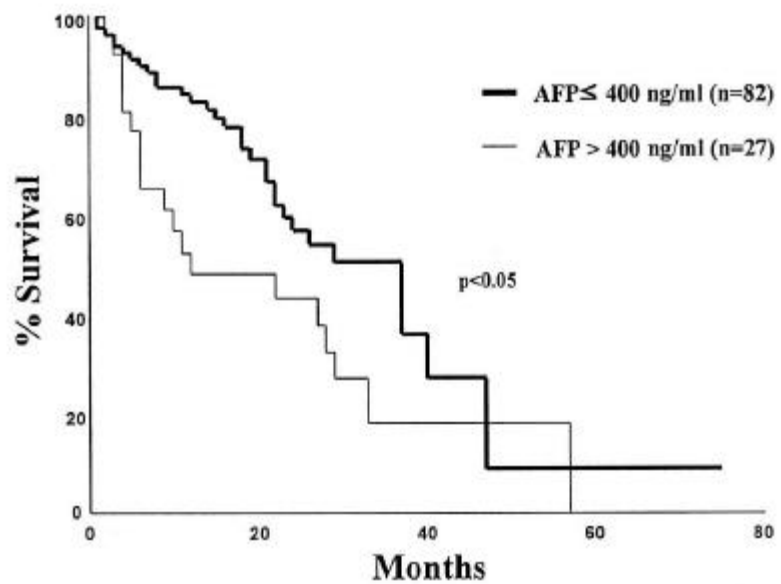
가

(p=0.80, p=0.12).

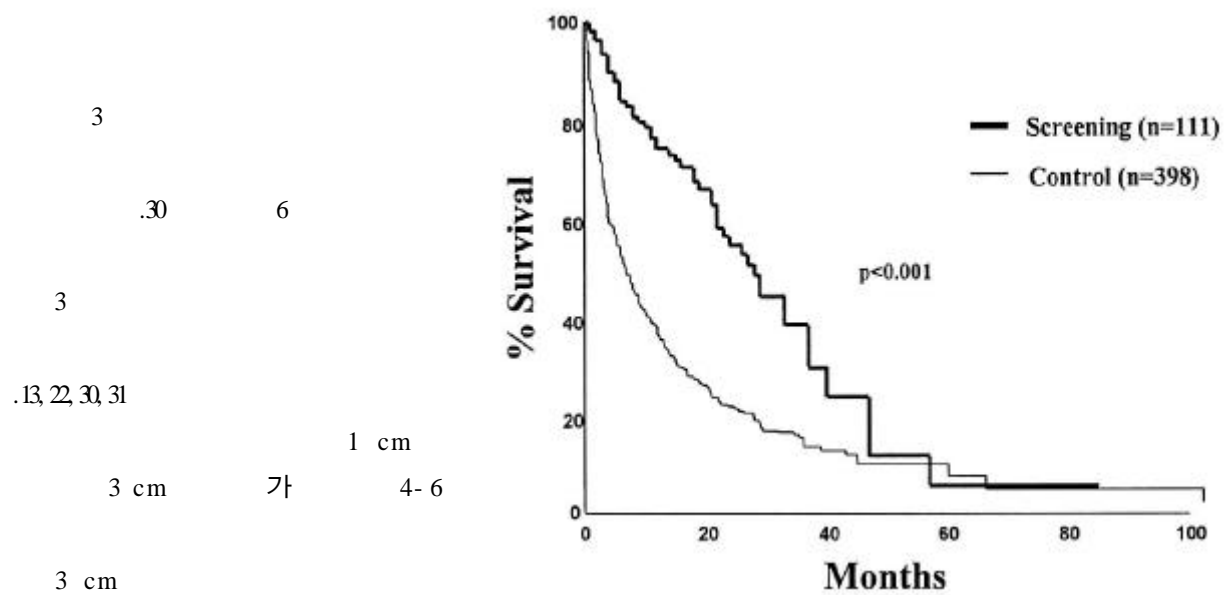
.21, 29



**Figure 3.** Survival rate according to the treatment modality.



**Figure 4.** Survival rate according to the alphafetoprotein level.



**Figure 5.** Survival rate in screening and control group.

**Table 8.** Factors Influencing the Survival Rate

Factor	No. of Patients (%)	p value
Tumor Size $\leq 3$ cm	82 (70)	0.0005*
$> 3$ cm	36 (30)	
$\alpha$ FP $\leq 400$ ng/ml	87 (75)	0.7908
$> 400$ ng/ml	29 (25)	
Liver Status CH+A	59 (50)	0.0135*
B+C	60 (50)	
No. of Tumor Single	89 (75)	0.9891
Over One	30 (25)	
TNM Stage 1+2	78 (70)	0.0459*
3+4	33 (30)	
PVT (+)	10 (9)	0.0679
(-)	101 (91)	
Metastasis (+)	2 (2)	0.0255*
(-)	109 (98)	
US Interval $\leq 6$ mo	64 (54)	0.5936
$> 6-12$ mo	55 (46)	
Type Nodular	106 (93)	0.2994
Diffuse	8 (7)	

\*: significant if  $p < 0.05$  by Cox's proportional hazard model

CH: Chronic Hepatitis

가 B .1, 6, 8, 19, 36, 37

가 .6, 16, 32

가

77%

가

57

.6, 16, 19, 32

B

가 74%

(HBsAg)

76%

75%

85.7%

55- 86%

64.1% , 65.4% , .13, 23, 29, 30

11.8- 25.0%

.16- 18, 32- 34

15% - 43%

B

.13, 29

C (anti- HCV) 21%

3 cm 70%

92%

40- 75%

.10, 22- 24, 29

92%

3 cm

가

11%

3 cm 가

15- 22%

.13, 29

6

가 54%

.8, 35

6 2.7 cm 6- 12

3.3 cm 6

35 5 cm 가 1 (2%)

.10, 13 6 9 (17%)

Sheu 6

가 23%

.14

4 (3%)

97%

가

5 cm

71%

60- 86%

10 Child B, C

가 8 가 75% 가 .

가

가

가 6 가 9 15

28 , 1, 2, 3

6 77%, 55%, 39%

22, 30

3 13% - 26.8%, 2

. A 39% . 16, 26, 39

2

가 7 3 14%

가

$\alpha$ FP

400 ng/ml 가

25% 3 cm

17%

5 cm 400 , , TNM ,

ng/ml 가 44% 5 cm . 3

72% cm 33 3 cm 11

가

$\alpha$

FP 가 .

. 13, 34, 38

$\alpha$ FP ,  $\alpha$ FP

가 , 가

가 , 가

. 6, 15, 17, 19, 33, 40, 41

$\alpha$ FP

$\alpha$ FP

$\alpha$ FP 3 cm

. 39

가 92%

87.5- 100%

. 13, 22

46%

:

Child A  $\alpha$ FP

5 cm 449 (78%)  
,  $\alpha$ FP 400 ng/ml  
. : 380 (66%)  
가 (p<0.001).  
1990 1 9 (8%), 67 (56%),  
1996 12 8 (7%), 35 (29%) .  
2 3- 12 28  
. Child , , TNM  
가 (p<0.05).  
119 . : 119 79 (66%), 7  
40 (34%) . 57  
(34- 76) . HBsAg 88 (74%), (p<0.001). :  
anti- HCV 25 (21%) . aFP  
가 27 (23%), 70% 3 cm  
가 92 (77%) 28  
가 115 (97%)  
(P<0.001).  
30  
(3- 75)  
6.8 (3- 12)  
6 가 64 (54%), 6- 12  
가 55 (46%) . 1  
가 89 (75%), 2 가 11 (9%), 3  
가 19 (16%)  
3.0 cm(1- 10 cm) 2 cm  
46 (39%), 2- 3 cm 36 (31%), 3- 5 cm 26  
(22%), 5 cm 10 (9%)  
6  
2.7 cm, 6- 12 3.3 cm 6  
(p<0.05).  
 $\alpha$ FP 400 ng/ml 가  
가 가 29 (25%)  
. 가

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